

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 AGRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
DOTE-00 COME-00 /083 W
-----130964 261119Z /41

R 241038Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8451
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, EAID, LT
SUBJECT: UN MISSION TO LESOTHO - TRANSKEI TRANSIT FROM SOUTHERN
DISTRICTS OF LESOTHO

REF: MASERU 0603,

1. SUMMARY. TWO MAN VISITING UN MISSION, HEADED BY GORDON
GOUNDRY (DEPUTY TO ASST. SECY GEN ABBY FARAH) AND INCLUDING WFP
REP RESIDENT IN LESOTHO, SENT TO LESOTHO TO SURVEY IMPACT AND
RESPONSE NEEDED TO MITIGATE ADVERSE EFFECT ON LESOTHO OF
RESTRICTIONS ON BASOTHO TRAVEL/TRANSIT IMPOSED BY SO-CALLED
INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI. TEAM BRIEFED CHARGE/AID GROUP AT OFFICES
UNRES REP MARCH 21. URGENT NEEDS AS SEEN BY GOL AND SURVEY TEAM
INCLUDE:

A. TRANSPORT
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(1) EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT INTERNAL ROAD CONNECTIONS IN
SOUTHERN DISTRICTS
(2) TRANSPORT FLEET (TRUCKS)

B. FOOD STORAGE FACILITIES (GRAIN AND OTHER PRODUCTS) IN ALL THREE
SOUTHERN DISTRICTS. PROPOSE U.S. PREPARE TO SUPPLY 10,000 TONS
WHEAT FLOUR UNDER PL-480 SEC 206 AS RESPONSE TO GENERAL

EMERGENCY TO FINANCE PORTION OF URGENT TRANSPORT AND STORAGE NEEDS. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTEL DESCRIBED SITUATION WHICH HAS ARISEN IN SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF LESOTHO AS RESULT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY TRANSKEI ON MOVEMENT OF BASOTHO INTO AND THROUGH TRANSKEI TO NEARBY TOWNS IN RSA WHICH HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN MAIN SOURCES OF SUPPLIES AND SERVICES TO ADJACENT LESOTHO AREAS WITH BARELY TRAVERSABLE ROAD CONNECTIONS TO REST OF LESOTHO. UN MISSION HEADED BY G. GOUNDRY HAS REVIEWED SITUATION AND EXAMINED IMPACT ON SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF LESOTHO AS RESULT OF TRANSKEI TRAVEL/ TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS ON LESOTHO CITIZENS.

3. UN MISSION MADE FOLLOWING GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

A. COST OF SERVICES AND ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES WILL RISE DUE EXTENDED DISTANCE TO NEAREST ALTERNATE SOURCE;

B. WHOLE SOUTHERN AREA IS FOOD DEFICIT REGION IN WHICH MANY ISOLATED AREAS NOW FACE ACUTE DIFFICULTIES SINCE NO ROADS CONNECT THEM TO SUPPLY CENTERS IN LESOTHO AND THEY ARE NOW CUT OFF FROM RSA OF WHICH THEY ARE NATURAL TRIBUTARIES;

C. BASOTHO TRADERS MAY BE PUT OUT OF ALL OR SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS THEIR FORMER BUSINESS INCLUDING DIRECT EXPORT TO RSA OF MAJOR ITEMS: LIVESTOCK, MOHAIR AND WOOL;
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D. BASOTHO MINE LABOR RECRUITMENT BY RSA MAY DROP IN AREA DUE HIGHER COST PERSONNEL TRANSPORT VIA LONGER ROUTES THROUGH LESOTHO INTO RSA LEADING TO INCREASED HARDSHIP FOR AREA'S RESIDENTS;

E. TENSIONS ALONG BORDER INCREASING DUE LIVESTOCK RAIDING FROM TRANSKEI INTO LESOTHO TERRITORY AND REFUSAL RETURN CATTLE WHICH STRAY INTO TRANSKEI;

K

F. DISTRESSED CARGO LEFT IN TRANSKEI AT TIME OF IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS BY RETURNING BASOTHO MINERS CREATES ACUTE HARDSHIP FOR INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED.

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R 241038Z MAR 78
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4. MAJOR NEEDS PUT FORWARD BY GOL AND LIKELY BE SUPPORTED BY UN
MISSION IN PRESENTATION TO UN MEMBERSHIP (POSSIBLY IN ATTACHMENT
TO INFORMAL LETTER FROM SECRETARY GENERAL) ARE:

A. INITIAL IMPROVEMENTS/MAINTENANCE, ENGINEERING DESIGN AND FULLY-
ENGINEERED CONSTRUCTION OF GRAVEL ROAD FOR QACHA'S NEK TO
SEHLABATHEBE AND IMPROVEMENT VARIOUS OTHER FEEDER ROADS TO CONNECT
BORDER AREAS TO MAIN ROAD;

B. EXPANSION OF VEHICLE FLEET TO SERVE SOUTHERN DISTRICTS BY
PURCHASE 26 VEHICLES (ESTIMATED COST \$700,000), SPARES (\$140,000)
AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY (COST NOT DETERMINED) AT QACHA'S NEK DUE
INACCESSIBILITY RSA FACILITIES PREVIOUSLY USED;

C. STORAGE AT QUTHING, MT. MOOROSI, AND QACHA'S NEK FOR GRAIN AND
OTHER FOODSTUFFS REQUIRED DUE TO SHIFT FROM NEARBY SOURCES IN
RSA (MATATIELE AND OTHERS NOW CUT OFF) TO DISTANT SOURCE (ZASTRON)
ORANGE FREE STATE), WHEREAS PREVIOUS PATTERN INVOLVED MAINTENANCE
OF ALMOST NO RPT NO INVENTORY. NUMEROUS OTHER NEEDS IN TRANSPORT,
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HEALTH, COMMUNICATIONS, POWER SECTORS ALSO DETAILED WHICH ARE
IMPORTANT BUT LESS URGENT.

5. EXPECT UN SYG WILL CALL MEETING IN NEW YORK POSSIBLY AS EARLY
AS LATE APRIL FOR INTERESTED UN MEMBERS TO CONSIDER RESPONSE TO
NEWLY IDENTIFIED NEEDS. WE URGE U.S. BE PREPARED PROPOSE AT THAT

MEETING THAT WE SUPPLY 10,000 TONS WHEAT FLOUR UNDER PL-480 TITLE II SEC. 206 AS RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY CONDITIONS CREATED BY ACTION OF TRANSKEI/RSA AUTHORITIES. THESE CONDITIONS EFFECTS ON INHABITANTS OF SOUTH LESOTHO AS BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED ABOVE (PARA 3) AS WELL AS PLACING STRAINS ON GOL BUDGET INsofar AS URGENT NEEDS ARE NOT MET BY DONORS. FLOUR SHOULD BE DELIVERED IN TEN EQUAL MONTHLY SHIPMENTS OF 1000 TONS EACH BEGINNING JUNE 1978. FLOUR IS PROPOSED SINCE NEW MILLING CAPACITY NOW BEING CONSTRUCTED IS NOT EXPECTED BE COMPLETE UNTIL FEBRUARY 1979. STAGGERED DELIVERY ESSENTIAL SINCE STORAGE CAPACITY IN LESOTHO SEVERELY LIMITED. PROCEEDS OF COMMERCIAL SALE OF FLOUR WOULD BE US\$D FOR A) FOOD (INCLUDING GRAIN) STORAGE FACILITIES (20-30 PERCENT); AND 2) FEEDER AND SECONDARY ROAD CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE (INCLUDING TOOLS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SELF-HELP LABOR-INTENSIVE PROJECTS) TO ESTABLISH OR MAINTAIN CONNECTIONS TO ISOLATED COMMUNITIES. REQUEST NOT RPT NOT YET RECEIVED FROM GOL BUT INDICATIONS ARE GOVERNMENT MAY MAKE REQUEST ALONG ABOVE LINES NEAR FUTURE.

6. APPRECIATE REACTION PROPOSAL SET FORTH PARA 5 ABOVE NL
T APRIL 15. ADVISE9

7. OSARAC AND AMBASSADOR CONCUR.
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